

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An outsole for a shoe, comprising:
 - a frame portion covering at least a substantial part of a peripheral area of the outsole, the frame portion composed of a first material; and
 - at least one insert portion molded to the frame portion, the at least one insert portion composed of a second material;
 - wherein a surface of the at least one insert portion comprises a plurality of cushioning modules.
2. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the frame portion provides stability to the outsole.
3. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the first material is a thermal plastic resin (TPR).
4. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the at least one cushioning portion provides a cushioning effect.
5. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the second material is a thermal plastic resin (TPR).
6. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the first material has a durometer that is greater than a durometer of the second material.

7. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the first material has a durometer between 40 and 45.
8. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the second material has a durometer between 33 and 35.
9. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the at least one insert portion comprises at least one rib oriented perpendicular to a toe-to-heel direction of the outsole.
10. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the at least one insert portion includes a ball-strike insert portion and a heel-strike insert portion.
11. The outsole of claim 10, wherein the ball-strike insert portion comprises at least one rib oriented perpendicular to a toe-to-heel direction of the outsole.
12. The outsole of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of cushioning modules is a hollow, molded pod.
13. The outsole of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of cushioning modules has a diamond shape.

14. The outsole of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of cushioning modules has an oval shape.

15. The outsole of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of cushioning modules has a flattened pyramid shape.

16. The outsole of claim 1, wherein the frame portion has a rounded peripheral edge.

17. A shoe, comprising:

an upper; and

an outsole attached to the upper, the outsole comprising:

a frame portion covering at least a substantial part of a peripheral area of the outsole, the frame portion composed of a first material; and

at least one insert portion molded to the frame portion, the at least one insert portion composed of a second material;

wherein a surface of the at least one insert portion comprises one or more cushioning modules.

18. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the first material provides stability to the outsole.

19. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the first material is a thermal plastic resin (TPR).

20. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the second material provides a cushioning effect.

21. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the second material is a thermal plastic resin (TPR).
22. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the first material has a durometer that is greater than a durometer of the second material.
23. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the first material has a durometer between 40 and 45.
24. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the second material has a durometer between 33 and 35.
25. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the at least one insert portion comprises at least one rib oriented perpendicular to a toe-to-heel direction of the outsole.
26. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the at least one insert portion includes a ball-strike insert portion and a heel-strike insert portion.
27. The shoe of claim 26, wherein the ball-strike insert portion comprises at least one rib oriented perpendicular to a toe-to-heel direction of the outsole.

28. The shoe of claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of cushioning modules is a hollow, molded pod.

29. The shoe of claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of cushioning modules has a diamond shape.

30. The shoe of claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of cushioning modules has an oval shape.

31. The shoe of claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of cushioning modules has a flattened pyramid shape.

32. The shoe of claim 17, wherein the frame portion has a rounded peripheral edge.